# Special PLACES FOR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS WINTER 2009 VOLUME 17 NO. 4





# Watch Where You Step

If you think back on all your winters past, you probably have memories of footprints you've made or seen. Maybe the dedicated, careful steps of a hiker in the woods, winding among pine boughs laden with fresh snow. Or the joyous, scattered prints left by a child who has nothing particular to do but celebrate the season. Or the hurried tromp of a commuter who needs to brush off the car after a latenight storm.

At The Trustees, we've been thinking a lot about footprints lately, both literal and figurative, and how to make sure we all tread just a little more lightly.

Footprints operate on a sort of sliding scale. One boot sole landing on a delicate flower or creature that happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time can cause irreparable damage. In the bigger picture, as we look at the notion of carbon footprints, we know our collective

habits and practices can have a negative impact on a similarly delicate, but much more immense, object; our entire atmosphere.

In either case, you can reduce your impact – you just have to be more thoughtful about how you walk. Once you start down this conscious path, you can use your footprints for good, whether that means consuming less energy, being more aware of the wildlife with whom you share the winter woods, or volunteering to maintain a trail that runs through your community.

Here at The Trustees, we've created an ambitious plan with the goal of becoming carbon neutral. And we hope you'll join us along the way, by becoming involved with our work and by making your own changes at home. Just as one footprint can do damage if carelessly placed, thousands of feet marching together can lead to a more sustainable future.

Together, we can make great strides.

auch Mulell

Andy Kendall

ON THE COVER: Climate activists come in all shapes, sizes, and ages, including this one at Crane Beach on the Crane Estate. © TTOR



## Find Your Place - Online

Announcing the new www.thetrustees.org. Find places to visit near you by typing in your zip code search for events more easily, explore volunteer opportunities and learn what The Trustees are upong in your community and across the state. Check it out today!

#### THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

We are more than 100,000 people like you from every corner of Massachusetts. We love the outdoors. We love the distinctive charms of New England. And we believe in celebrating and protecting them – for ourselves, for our children, and for generations to come. With more than 100 special places across the state, we invite you to find your place.

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#### SPECIAL PLACES

WINTER 2009 VOL.17 NO.4

# Contents



## 2 COVER STORY

## A Climate for Change

With an exciting and ambitious new plan that encompasses everything from composting food to retrofitting buildings, The Trustees are working to become carbon neutral – and hope to inspire many others to join the climate fight.

## 8 PEOPLE AND PLACE

## Miles to Go Before | Sleep

Whether you want to hike for an hour, a day, or a month, there's a long-distance trail near you – find out where they are, which Trustees properties they cross, and who takes care of them.

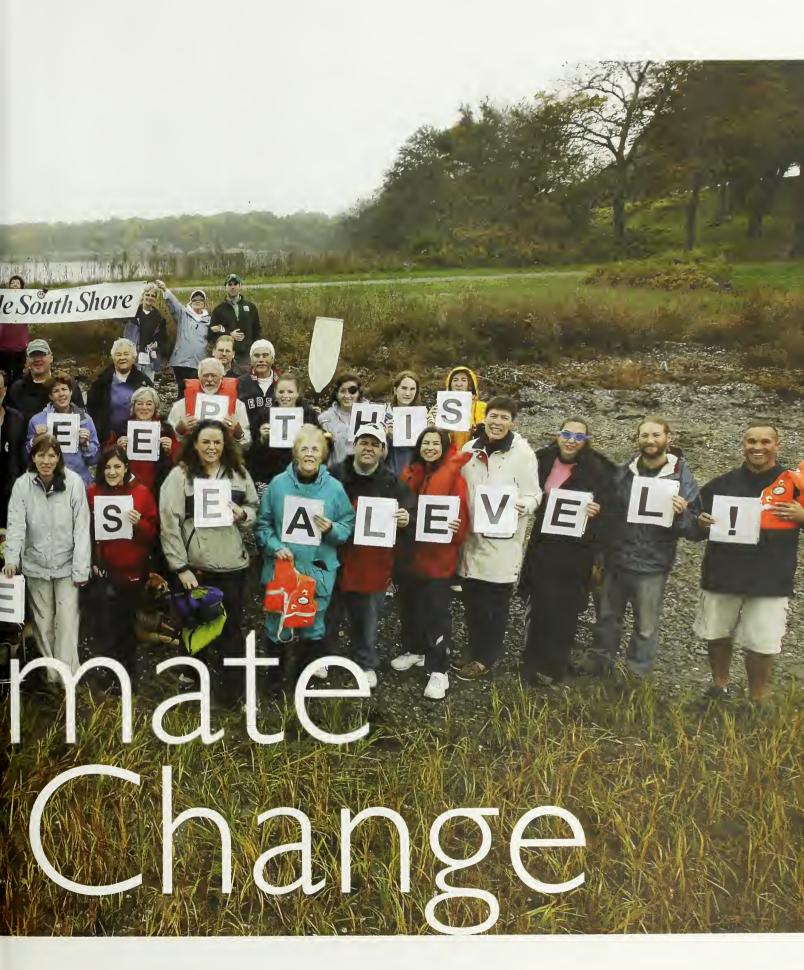
## FIELD NOTES

## **Bobcat Betrothals**

Refugia? Scrapes? Bobcat dates? Experience the winter woods in a whole new light on this voyeuristic voyage with expert tracker Susan Morse.

- 14 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- 20 FIND YOUR PLACE







VISIT THEM ON ANY GIVEN DAY, AND you'll find the usual munching of grass, flicking of ears, and occasional gentle moo. But these peaceful creatures harbor a little secret: they're a contributor to climate change.

OK, they're not as harmful as their belching brethren on factory farms, thanks to the agricultural management practiced by The Trustees. But methane does waft from the Appleton herd into the atmosphere, joining greenhouse-gas emissions from vehicles, buildings, farms, and factories worldwide – and quietly altering life as we know it.

Climate change is no longer a "someday" concern. Its effects are already being seen and felt, in the form of extreme weather, migrating species, warming oceans, and declining snowpack. And the scientific community agrees that if we simply stay the course, we will threaten water resources, crop production, and human health – in short, our very lives.

"The potential damage to the planet, to international civil order, human health and nutrition, species change, and economic activity [is] dramatic," says Trustees board member Ted Ladd. "No one should be passive about understanding the issue and taking some steps to mitigate impact."

That's why The Trustees are meeting the issue head on, crafting a plan to reduce their own carbon footprint and to inspire members and others to join the fight.

## It All Started with an Audit

To get a handle on just how many greenhouse gases enter the atmosphere from Trustees properties, operations, and events, the organization conducted a thorough audit. The result: 1,891 metric tons a year. It's an easy figure to remember because of a poetic coincidence: 1891 is the year the organization was founded.

It's not an enormous number by any means. To put it in some context, consider that total U.S. emissions annually are about 7 billion metric tons, with the state of Massachusetts contributing about 22 million of those. Which means 1,891 is, as Planning and Stewardship Director Lisa Vernegaard puts it, "a drop in the bucket." But when it comes to fighting climate change, every little bit counts.

So The Trustees have devised a comprehensive plan for taking action, from driving less to recycling at events, from strengthening properties to spreading the word. The plan includes three main goals: become carbon neutral, nurture resiliency in the landscape, and inspire people to take action.

It's an ambitious undertaking, but the motivation is clear. As Vernegaard says, "Climate change is already here, and it's poised to undermine all the things we have worked to protect for 118 years."

## 1. Emission Possible: Becoming Carbon Neutral

It's a goal embraced by many entities, from college campuses to entire countries: becoming carbon neutral. It doesn't mean emitting no carbon; at its most basic, it means balancing your emissions with a reduction in emissions elsewhere. In the best-case scenario, it also means reducing your emissions as

much as possible – which is exactly what The Trustees intend to do.

A key component of the plan, which aims to achieve neutrality by 2017, is to retrofit many of the organization's 265 buildings to make them more energy efficient. A major overhaul was just completed at the farmhouse at Long Hill in Beverly, including the installation of organic insulation,

soy-based foam insulation, programmable thermostats, and Energy Star appliances. Now three more projects are in the works: renovation of the Old House at Appleton Farms to become a visitor center, which kicked off this past fall: retrofit of a farmhouse into office space for The Trustees at the newly acquired Bullitt Reservation in Conway, which began in November; and an upgrade to the Westport Town Farm, pending approval by the state legislature, planned for the spring. All three should qualify for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

"The greenest building is the Structural Resources and Technology. properties by 40 percent. The projects "Visitors can come and see real-world

## building that already exists," says Jim Younger, Trustees Director of Younger expects that these updates will improve energy efficiency at the will also demonstrate how easy and cost-effective it can be to make the same types of changes at home. solutions," says Appleton Farms manager Wayne Castonguay. "These are not wild, unreachable things."

More steps toward neutrality: The plan calls for, among other things, converting 25 percent of Trustees vehicles to alternative fuel; reducing mowing and the use of synthetic fertilizers; installing solar arrays on the ranger stations at Wasque Reservation on Martha's Vineyard and Coskata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge on Nantucket, composting food waste at events; and buying green power.



## Climate Change...in Massachusetts?

It may seem vast and invisible, but climate change is already having an to irrevocably damage the very landscapes that The Trustees exist to protect

- Flooding of coastal areas that provide homes for 4.8 million people, or 75 percent of the state's population - not to mention critical habitat for species including piping plovers and roseate terns.
- More intense periods of rain and drought, the latter contributing to a 10 to 20 percent increase in the risk of forest fires.

- Accelerated pollen production, leading to increased asthma and allergies.

The good news is, swift action can help avoid this Bay State fate. Be part of the solution: See "What You Can Do" on PAGE 6 for ways you can help.

## 2. Dams and Dunes: Null turing the Resiliency of the Landscape

Maybe you find inspiration in the dunes at Ipswich's Crane Beach, or the birches at Sheffield's Bartholomew's Cobble. Perhaps it's the hint of the past offered by the old cellar holes at the Swift River Reservation in Petersham, or the glimpse of the future in a newly hatched osprey chick on Nantucket. Whatever the attraction, there's something you should know: climate change is putting these and many of the state's other natural and cultural features at risk.

Through 118 years, The Trustees have become synonymous with land protection. But this raft of new threats means simply conserving land isn't enough. In the face of extreme weather, invasive species arriving, and native species being forced out, the organization must work harder than ever to strengthen its 102 properties.

Lisa Vernegaard says the health of a landscape is the key to its chances of surviving the stresses of climate change. She likens the situation to a flu epidemic: the victims are often made more vulnerable by underlying conditions. With that in mind, Trustees staff and volunteers will be working to strengthen properties by battling invasive species like Japanese barberry and hemlock-attacking woolly adelgid; restoring natural systems; and taking other measures to ensure that the state of the land is strong.

They'll also wield another effective tool, though it's one that requires partners: the creation of landscapescale corridors that allow species to migrate, while preventing fragmentation of the region's remaining forestland. One such effort began in 2003: together with 27 public and private organizations, The Trustees are working to protect a two million-acre corridor between the Quabbin area in Massachusetts and New Hampshire's Mount Cardigan.

In a sense, none of this work is new – but it does carry a new sense of urgency. "We're doing what we've always been trying to do," says Vernegaard, "but we're really ramping up."

### More steps toward resiliency:

Other steps include restoring natural systems, through projects such as the recent Red Brook dam removal at Lyman Reserve in Plymouth; updating the care and management of gardens and designed landscapes to account for changes including longer growing seasons; and considering climate impacts such as more powerful storms when planning how to maintain structures and cultural features.

## 3. Talk, Show: Inspiring More People to Join the Fight

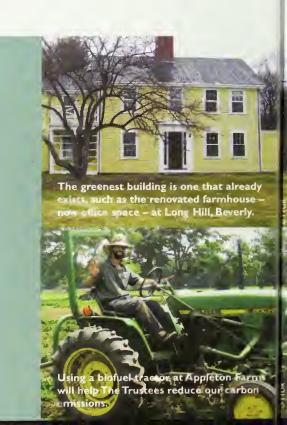
Climate change is a global issue, yes, but at heart it's a very personal issue. As it progresses, we are seeing not only threats to the land, animals, and plants we hold dear, but to our fellow humans, and to ourselves.

For this reason, a central part of The Trustees' plan is to encourage others to join the climate fight – not just members, but the 1 million people who visit our properties each year, the neighbors who live nearby, the subscribers to our Community Supported Agriculture programs, the

## What You Can Do

Here are a few steps you can take:

- Visit makemesustainable.com to measure your carbon footprint and pledge to reduce it.
- Follow the progress of our green building projects online at www.thetrustees.org See what we're doing — and what you can apply in your own home.
- Sign up for an energy audit at your home to find out how you can be more efficient
   many utility companies cover or subsidize the cost, so check with yours first.
- Make your backyard part of the solution; replace invasive species such as burning bush with natives like high-bush blueberry.
- Buy local food when possible so that ou can avoid shipping impacts, protest fossil-fuel-intensive industrial agriculture, and keep your dollars close to home
- Push your local and national politicians to use their power to make smar climate decisions. If they don't hear from you, they won't know you care.



students whose very futures are at risk.

"Our goal is to influence a much greater circle than just our membership," says Younger. So how will that happen? Through green volunteer opportunities, workshops, tours, signs, stories, programs - in short, through any means possible. And significantly, it will happen in some new, creative ways as well; reaching the broadest possible audience will require veering away from traditional landconservation rhetoric, says Angela Park of Diversity Matters, who consults with environmental organizations including The Trustees on inclusion and diversity. Park points out that "polar bears and parts per million" don't tug at everyone's heartstrings, and says the most effective climate change rallying cries are "visceral, and deeply connected to people's day-to-day experience."

Searching for new connection points is a challenge The Trustees are prepared to take on – because reversing climate change is an effort that will require all hands on deck. "We need to involve our members, visitors to our reservations, and the people who live

in the towns and cities where we work – even if 10 percent of us change our behavior or take some action, we will far outdo the impact the organization will have on its own," says Vernegaard. "We want to inspire many, many more people to care and to act. It's the principle that drives all our work."

#### More steps toward inspiration:

Among the ideas for mobilizing a new circle of people is creating a high-profile demonstration site in each region; adding interpretive signs at some reservations; hosting climate-related events such as the recent International Day of Climate Action events at Crane Beach and World's End; developing a network of "backyard" stewards; and partnering with other organizations focusing on climate.

For more details on the climate action plan, visit www.thetrustees.org/climate-action

Katharine Wroth is a senior editor for Grist.org. Her work has appeared in Special Places and other environmental publications.







A Feast for the Senses March 24 – 28, 2010

SEAPORT WORLD TRADE CENTER, BOSTON

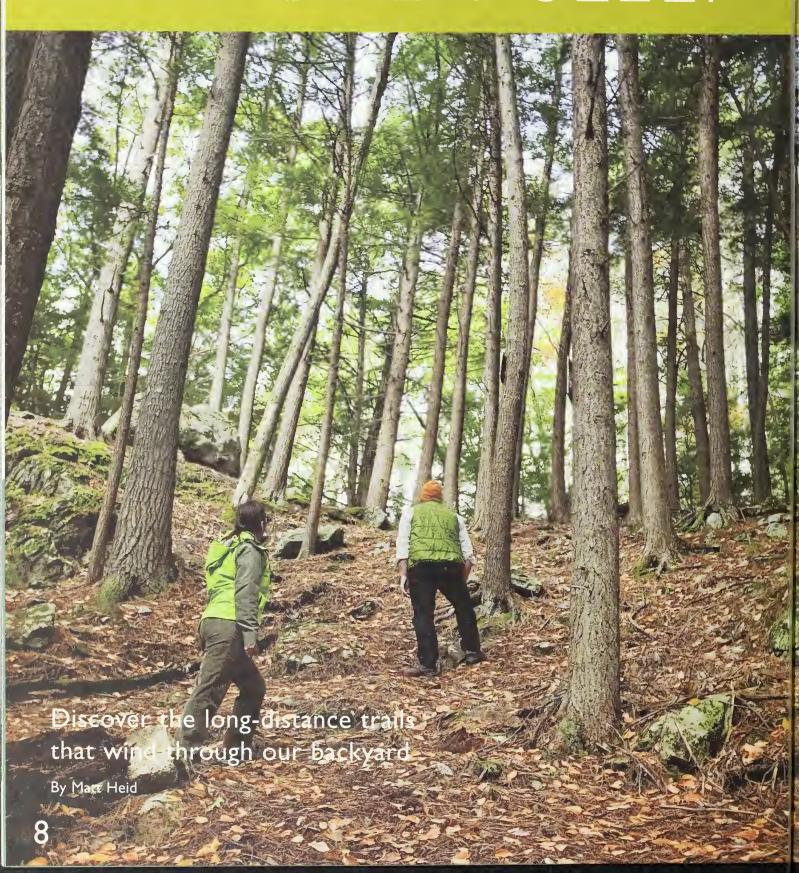
Find the tools and inspiration you need to kick off your gardening season in style at the revamped Boston Flower & Garden Show. Be sure to stop by The Trustees' exhibit to learn how we are working with rural farmers, urban gardeners, and everyone in between to promote local, sustainable food.

Find details and ticket information at www.thebostonflowershow.com. Trustees members save \$5 on Adult admission online by entering discount code TTORFS2010.

And, don't miss out on the Flower Show Preview Party on March 23 | 7 – 9PM. Gardens will be at their peak as guests will enjoy the first exclusive viewing of the 2010 show at this elegant cocktail party. A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Trustees of Reservations. Go online to learn more!

ABOVE: Long Hill, Beverly

# MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP



Long-distance trails course through the Massachusetts landscape like emerald veins. The Bay Circuit Trail arcs around Boston on a grand 200-mile sweep of adventure. The 114-mile Metacomet-Monadnock Trail and 22-mile Tully Trail pulse through the lush and rolling central hills. In the Berkshires, 90 miles of the Appalachian Trail traverse some of the state's wildest terrain. Together, these extended paths cross more than a dozen Trustees properties, connecting hikers, communities, and caring stewards alike.

## INTO THE GREAT BACKYARD

The Bay Circuit Trail (BCT) is a haven of backyard adventure. It runs through 34 towns and dozens of protected parklands, providing millions of Greater Boston-area residents with ready access to the outdoors. From its southern end in Duxbury, the BCT heads west, then circles north as it winds through the sylvan landscape between I-495 and I-95. After crossing the Massachusetts Turnpike, it slowly curves back east to return to the sea at its northern terminus in Newburyport.

On its journey, the BCT relies on existing paths in various protected areas, including eight Trustees reservations, critical gateways for local residents and visitors alike. Hikers find whispering woods, sweeping hilltops, lush wetlands — and a full spectrum of local plants and animals. "It's amazing to find this type of peace and contentment available only 24 miles from Boston," marvels Alan French, chair of the Bay Circuit Alliance.

The Alliance, a nonprofit coalition of more than 50 state and local partners including The Trustees, formed in 1990. The group's mission: to expand the vision of a Bay Circuit greenway, first conceived in the 1930s as an outer companion

to Boston's famed Emerald Necklace, into a continuous trail. Today, after almost two decades of volunteer dedication, the trail is nearly complete, with 195 of 200 miles open.

Behind this monumental accomplishment stands a cadre of volunteers who work to maintain, protect, and enhance the corridor. "It's nice to have the trail," muses Rita Corey of the Sharon Friends of Conservation, who volunteers time to support the BCT. "It links so many different properties together. They're beautiful. They're a haven from the everyday world. The trail really takes people through areas they didn't know about."

A few years ago, Corey helped put up the dozens of white markers that today guide visitors along Sharon's 11-plus miles of the BCT, helping to connect an ever-growing number of residents and visitors to the Massachusetts landscape. BCT organizers hope such ease of access will lead to a passion for the land, and for conserving it. As French says, "To protect land...you have to have people who value using these lands."

LEFT: The 22-mile Tully Trail runs through three Trustees reservations, including Doane's Falls, Royalston. BELOW: Together, Denny Nackony, Rita Corey, Greg Meister, and Kurt Buermann worked to mark the Bay Circuit Trail's course through Sharon.

## Go the distance... or just a few steps

You don't have to pack for months, or even days, to get a taste of the long-distance trails that run through Massachusetts. Here's where to find adventures of all sizes at Trustees reservations:

#### RAY CIRCUIT TRAIL

Newbury: Old Town Hill
Hamilton/lpswich: Appleton Farms
Andover/North Andover: Ward Reservation
Concord: The Old Manse
Sherborn: Rocky Narrows
Medfield: Medfield Rhododendrons,
Noon Hill, Shattuck Reservation

#### TULLY TRAIL

Royalston: Royalston Falls, Jacobs Hill, Doane's Falls, Tully Lake Campground

APPALACHIAN TRAIL
Tyringham: Tyringham Cobble





## INTO THE WILDS

The state seems to rumple as you head west, into a region of exceptional conservation land nestled in the less populated, ten-town region north of the Quabbin Reservoir. Rocky hilltops dimple a lush and forested landscape of shimmering ponds and chattering waterfalls. More than 90,000 acres of protected parkland can be found in North Quabbin country, and the 22-mile Tully Trail loops through many of its highlights, including three Trustees reservations (SEE SIDEBAR, PAGE 9).

"We're blessed," enthuses Mike Lovell of Orange, Mass. "It's quite the trail system." A Trustees member since 2006, Lovell regularly contributes his time to maintain the Tully Trail and keep it clear of brush, branches, and litter. "It's a special treat to be out in the woods, plus you're doing something to help all kinds of other people. It brightens your thinking about how the whole world works."

Completed in 2001, the Tully Trail begins at Tully Lake Campground, the only Trustees-managed campground. It heads north toward Royalston Falls, where a delicate cascade drops more than 20 feet into an inaccessible grotto. Just beyond, close to the trail's midpoint, stands a free, first-come, first-serve, eight-bunk shelter constructed by Trustees volunteers in 2003.

Here the Tully Trail is joined for 1.4 miles by a portion of the Metacomet-Monadnock (M-M) Trail, which runs for 114 miles from the Connecticut border to the summit of Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire. In March 2009, the Massachusetts portion of trail, along with connected trails in Connecticut, was designated the New England National Scenic Trail, a Congressional recognition of its significance.

With its new designation, the M-M Trail enjoys the same status as that most famous of long-distance paths: the Appalachian Trail (AT). On its journey from Georgia to Maine, the AT traces 90 miles across the Berkshires – including a one-mile stretch through The Trustees' Tyringham Cobble, where a striking hilltop meadow provides sweeping views.

The AT first graced the Cobble in the mid-1980s, when The Trustees worked to reroute the trail away from a nearby road. Trustees volunteers continue to monitor the trail today, and an annual October volunteer workday draws dozens. "I think the AT through Tyringham provides an opportunity for thru-hikers, day hikers, and volunteers to experience the exceptional care we provide our reservations," says Steve McMahon, Berkshires Regional Director. "Personally, it's just a great hike, any time of the year."

Matt Heid is a freelance writer and author of AMC's Best Backpacking in New England.



## A Great Gift...For All Occasions

A membership to The Trustees of Reservations is the perfect gift for friends, family, and colleagues who treasure time in the Massachusetts outdoors and share your passion for protecting its special places.

And, when you order before January 15, we'll include this comfortable 100% cotton denim shirt with your order.

Ordering is quick easy: go online to www.thetrustees.org/gift or call 978,921.1944 (M - F, 9AM - 5PM).



Story and photographs by Susan C. Morse

ONE LATE-WINTER MORNING, I WENT IN SEARCH OF BOBCAT LOVE.

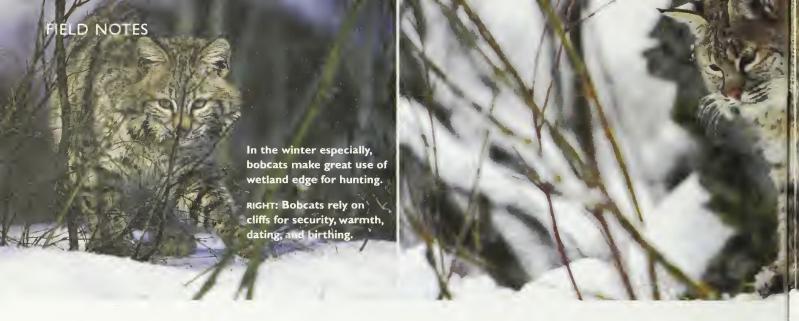
The previous day had been sunny, and the night clear and starry. Evidence of last night's wildcatting activities was all about.

Over the years, I've gotten to know a certain tom-bobcat's tracks, and whenever I encounter them, I'll poke along for a spell to see what he's been up to. I always backtrack – follow his trail the way he came, not the way he's going – out of respect for his privacy and his absolute need not to be harassed, frightened, or forced to expend precious energy, especially during late winter's season of potential food shortage and deep snow.

The tom's tracks led me toward his refugia among high cliffs and talus. These seemingly precarious spots are typical south or southwest-facing bedsites, or "lays"; the winter sun provides much-appreciated warmth. My 33 years of field research in northern Vermont has demonstrated the critical importance of these cliff and ledge habitats for bobcats. Massachusetts biologists suspect that affinity for rocky ledges is one reason why these wild felines are common in the central and western parts of the state.

Times are relatively good for bobcats in New England – much better than earlier in the 20th century, when overhunting, habitat destruction, and a paucity of prey severely limited their numbers. In addition to stricter game laws, bobcats now benefit from access to lower-elevation habitats, thanks to the regrowth and reconnection of countless thousands of acres of forest cover. This reforestation helped other

LEFT: Here, a bobcat sat for a spell while searching the countryside for prey.



species as well, including moose, white-tailed deer, river otter, and fisher. Unfortunately, our forest-cover expansion has come to an end. New housing and busier roads are whittling away at prime lowland habitats and threatening the corridors that link them.

But this tom still has room to prowl. I circled around to the other side of the bony ridge to pick up his trail. The tracks showed that, at sundown, the napping cat had abandoned his bed and headed out for a date and possibly a nice meal in the forest below. Along

the way, the sometimes-hurrying tom frequently paused beside rotten stumps or conifer boughs. If you kneel down at such places and sniff the surface facing the hindfoot tracks, you'll detect the distinctive odor of cat urine: "Elixir de kitty!"

Farther along, the tom had created a "scrape." Often under a protective rock overhang, bobcats of both sexes will use their hind feet to scratch the ground and create a pile of absorbent leaves, evergreen needles, soil, and sometimes snow. They anoint the pile with secretions from glands located between the toes, and sometimes feces and urine. The tom's scratch was a sort of personal ad, conveying his identity, location in time and space, and social and sexual status.

Three hours and nearly four miles after I started, I decided to backtrack an older set of female tracks, hoping they would lead me to where I'd begun. This cat's smaller feet, shorter strides, and relatively infrequent scentmarking provided clues regarding her gender, but her behaviors were the most



## Make tracks this winter

As you explore the outdoors this winter, keep an eye out for tracks and other signs of local wildlife. The clues you find will help give you a deeper understanding of the landscape. Here are four tips to help novice and expert alike:

- GO WHERE THE ANIMALS GO. Your ability to discover tracks and signs of even the most cryptic species will be dramatically enhanced if you search along "game trails." These preferred routes of travel are predictably found along ridgelines, beside wetland and field-edge habitats, and alongside streams and rivers.
- FIND THE FOOD. Wildlife sign is more abundant near habitats that provide an abundance of food. For example, find the specific habitats that offer each season's bounty of seeds, fruits, and nutmeats. For predator sign, look for habitats that support an abundance and diversity of prey species.



revealing. She was more focused on hunting than reproduction, slinking from cover to cover, tree to stump to rock. In contrast to the tom's destination-driven, swaggering trail, the female was cryptic and careful. Her *modus operandi* was to carefully conserve energy by gracefully walking above the deep snow, along fallen logs and skinny branches.

No date for these two cats, but there's always another day. And their respective journeys remind us: Like so many species in our winter woods, the bobcat

is quintessentially wild, yet wonderfully near us. Wild animals travel, nap, hunt, and find mates in a vast matrix of habitats that must be conserved if they are to survive. Walk along a backtrail for the day, and you'll get the picture — it's the big picture.

Susan C. Morse is a nationally recognized wildlife ecologist and tracker. She is founder and director of KEEPING TRACK® (www.keepingtrack.org), which offers field workshops for citizen science volunteers, biologists, land managers, transportation agency personnel, and land trust leaders. Keeping Track workshops provide hands-on experience with science-based tracking and wildlife monitoring techniques, which yield information critical to successful conservation planning and preservation of wildlife habitat.

Portions of this article first appeared in Vermont's Rutland Herald and The Times Argus, and were originally made possible by the Wellborn Ecology Fund.



- REMEMBER THAT "FEET MAKE TRACKS." Study the specific physical characteristics of each species front and hind feet, then look for those features while identifying tracks. Your accuracy will be considerably improved.
- DON'T JUST LOOK ON THE GROUND! Wildlife scent-marking sign is easy to find on trees, shrubs, and ledge overhangs if one takes the time to study marking behaviors and media that are very predictable and unique to each species. Our mantra at Keeping Track is, "Half of tracking is knowing where to look the other half is looking."

LEFT: A Keeping Track class in the snow – you can even find animal signs in a blizzard!



## TWICE AS GIEEN ANNUAL GIVING CHALLENGE THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

## Double Your Impact

As Trustees, we all share the responsibility of caring for the places and experiences that make this the place we want to call home. Massachusetts is ours to love and care for, and, in these challenging times, we must be more committed than ever to defending it.

Your support is critical. And this year, thanks to an incredible challenge by our Board of Directors, your new or increased gift can go twice as far towards making a difference for Massachusetts.

- If you were not able to make a gift last year, we urge you to consider a gift now. Your gift, large or small, will be matched by our Board dollar for dollar, doubling its impact.
- If you were able to give last year, please renew your support and consider adding to what you gave last year. Our Board will match every dollar of your additional gift.

Every gift matters! Thank you for making a difference.

# Winter Events

DECEMBER 2009 - MARCH 2010

This winter, get out and explore the frosty landscape with The Trustees. Find traces of winter wildlife, learn to snowshoe, celebrate the holidays, learn how to make your garden grow, and much more. There's so much to do with The Trustees this winter! For details on all of our event and volunteer opportunities – and to sign up for our monthly enewsletter – go to www.thetrustees.org.



## BERKSHIRES

Walking & Writing the
Winter Landscape
Sundays, January 3, February 7, March 7
I – 3PM
BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE, SHEFFIELD
413.298.3239 x3003
FREE with admission. Please pre-register.

Stories from Nature's Garden
Second Saturdays, Monthly through June 12
11AM - 12NOON
LEE LIBRARY, LEE 413.243.038S
For children ages 5 & under with caregivers and siblings. FREE.

Geminids Meteor Shower Watch Saturday, December 12 | 7 - 8:30pm BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE, SHEFFIELD 413.229.8600 FREE with admission. Please pre-register.

Winter Walk for Children Sunday, December 13 | 1 – 3PM BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE, SHEFFIELD 413.229.8600 FREE with admission. Snowshoes available in adult and child sizes. Please pre-register.

Big Bear Rising: Solstice
Sunset Hike & Campfire
Saturday, December 19 | 3:30 – 5:30pm
BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE, SHEFFIELD
413.229.8600

FREE with admission. Snowshoes available in adult and child sizes Please pre-register.

Walk the World of Winter with a Naturalist Guide
Saturdays, January 9, January 23,
February 20 | 10AM - 12NOON
BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE, SHEFFIELD
413.229.8600
FREE with admission. Snowshoes available in adult and child sizes. Please pre-register.

Winter Wildlife Day at Field Farm Sunday, January 31 | 1 - 3PM FIELD FARM, WILLIAMSTOWN 413.298.3239 x3000 FREE. Snowshoes available in adult and child sizes by advance reservation.

Over the Meadow: Guided Trek Saturday, February 27 | 10am – 12noon MOUNTAIN MEADOW, POWNAL, VT 413.298.3239 x3000 FREE.

Traces of Slavery: Colonel Ashley's Papers
Sunday, February 28 | 2 - 3:30PM
BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE, SHEFFIELD
413.298.3239 x3013
FREE with admission. Please pre-register.

Winter Wildlife & Landscapes
Speaker Series
Selected evenings
BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE, SHEFFIELD
413.229.8600
FREE. Donations welcome. See
www.thetrustees.org for details.

## PIONEER VALLEY



Sneak Peak: Snowshoe Trek & Track Sunday, January 10 | I – 4PM

LITTLE TOM RESERVATION, HOLYOKE
413.S32.1631 ×10

Snowshoe rentals available (\$10/pair) or bring your own. Call to pre-register and for shoe rental. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: \$10 donation requested.

Climate Change and Your Land:
What Can You Do?
PART 1: CARBON AND FOREST SEQUESTRATION
Tuesday, January 26 (Snow Date: January 27)
7 – 9PM
BUCKLAND SHELBURNE COMMUNITY CENTER,
SHELBURNE FALLS 413.268.8219
FREE. Pre-registration required.

Post-Ground Hog Day Celebration: Children's Winter Adventure (Ages 6 – 11)

Saturday, February 6 | 2 – 4PM

PEAKED MOUNTAIN, MILLER'S FOREST TRACT, MONSON 413.S32.1631 ×10

Members: FREE. Nonmembers: \$10 donation requested. Please pre-register.

## Ski & Snowshoe at Notchview

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Members (Individual, Family,

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Nonmembers

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Bill Koch Youth Ski League (Ages 5 - 13)Winter Sundays | 2 - 4PM

Berkshire Trails Nordic Race Series Other dates to be announced, pending weather

Women's Nordic Ski Clinics DATE/TIME BY ARRANGEMENT

Limit of 8 women per clinic, Arrange your lesson with Jeanne Mangan; 413.634.2123. Members: \$40. Nonmembers: \$50.

Winter Trails Day Saturday, January 9 | 10AM – 3PM Regular trail fees apply. Get details at www.thetrustees.org. Moonlight Skiing and Poetry at Notchview Thursday, January 28 | 7 - 9PM

Moonlight Skiing and S'mores at Notchview Friday, February 26 | 7 - 9PM Members: FREE. Nonmembers: Adult \$10, Child \$2.

Snowshoe Hike

Winter Olympics 2-for-1 day Sunday, February 21 | ALL DAY 2-for-1 all day with half-price snowshoe rentals.

Notchview Brown Bag Lunch Series Take a break from skiing and enjoy a short free talk about Notchview while you eat your lunch. Dates and details at www.thetrustees.org.

Grooming at Notchview Sunday, January 24 | 12:30 - 1PM

Notchview History Sunday, February 21 📗 12:30 – 1PM

Berkshire League High School Races\* (For: high school racers) Dates TBD
Regular league meet. Trails and lodge clear by
12NOON.

Notchview by other groups. During the race the

## Volunteer

When you volunteer with The Trustees, you're not only helping us care for special places across the state, you're making a difference to your community and to your neighbors. So get out and get involved.

#### PIONEER VALLEY

March Madness: Spring Stewardship Saturday, March 13 | I - 3PM (RAIN CANCELS) DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS RESERVATION, HOLYOKE 413.532.1631 ×10

Pre-registration preferred. FREE.

### NORTHEAST

Conservation Crewhands (Ages 14 - 16) February School Vacation Opportunities available at Ravenswood, Gloucester (978.281.8480), and the Crane Estate, Ipswich (978.921.1944 x4005). Call for details.

Cape Ann Conservation Education Programs Variety of time-shifts and opportunities RAVENSWOOD, GLOUCESTER 978.28 .8400

The Flower Project LONG HILL, BEVERLY 978.921.1944 ×4018 Volunteers needed to help plan, design, and implement a new pick-your-own flower initiative.

Martin Luther King Day -A Day of Conservation Service at the Crane Estate Monday, January 18 | 9AM - IPM CRANE ESTATE, IPSWICH 978,921.1944 ×4005 Please pre-register by calling 978.921.1944 x4005 or emailing sbursky@ttor.org.

## SOUTHEAST

Nest Box Building Saturday, February 27 | I - 3PM WATUPPA RESERVATION HEADQUARTERS. 2929 BLOSSOM ROAD FALL RIVER 508.679.2115

Bluebird Monitor Training March 7 | 1 - 3PM LOCATION TBD 508 679.2115 X11 FREE Call for details.

Find more volunteer opportunities online at www.thetrustees.org.



## GREATER BOSTON

Including Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN)

"Summer in the Valley" Photo Exhibition Throughout January DOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Green Dogs Hound Hike First Saturdays, January 2, February 6, March 6 | 8 - 9:30AM OR 1:30 - 3PM ROCKY WOODS, MEDFIELD \$08,785,0339 Members: FREE, Nonmembers: \$4, FREE Green Dog Day Pass. Pre-registration is required.

Ecosplorations: Winter Edition Ages 5 - 6: Tuesdays, January 5, 12, 19, 26, February 2 | 3:30 - 5PM Ages 7 - 10: Wednesdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 3 | 3:30 - 5PM WEIR RIVER FARM, HINGHAM 781.740.4796 Space limited. Please pre-register. Members: \$40. Nonmembers: \$55.

Snowflakes: Winter Preschool Outings (Ages 2 - 5) Wednesdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27 10 - 11AM

WEIR RIVER FARM, HINGHAM 781.740.4796 Space limited. Please pre-register. Members: \$32. Nonmembers: \$44.

Hike of the Month Club Fourth Sundays, January 24, February 28, March 28 | 1 - 3PM LOCATIONS VARY, CHARLES RIVER VALLEY \$08.78\$.0339 FREE. Volunteers welcome.

Cedariver Sledding Saturday, February 6 | 9AM - 2PM CEDARIVER, MILLIS 508.78S.0339 FREE (donations welcome).

February Vacation Nature Program (Ages 6 - 9)

Tuesday, February 16 through Thursday, February |8 | 9AM - I2NOON WEIR RIVER FARM, HINGHAM 781,740,4796 Please pre-register. Members: \$75. Nonmembers: \$90.

## CENTRAL REGION

Winter Adventures at Rock House Saturday, January 9 | 10AM - 2PM ROCK HOUSE RESERVATION, WEST BROOKFIELD 978.840.4446 ×1900 FRFF

Winter Campout at Tully Saturday - Sunday, January 30 - 31 TULLY LAKE CAMPGROUND, ROYALSTON 978.248.9455

Members: \$15/person. Nonmembers: \$20/person.

Winter Walkabout Saturday, February 13 | 1 - 3PM DOYLE RESERVATION, LEOMINSTER 978.840.4446 ×1900 FREE.

To Build a Fire Saturday, February 27 | 1 - 4PM BROOKS WOODLAND PRESERVE, PETERSHAM 978.248.9455 FREE

Springtime Meander Sunday, March 21 | I - 3PM DOYLE RESERVATION, LEOMINSTER 978.840.4446 ×1900 FREE.

The Old Manse

269 MONUMENT AVENUE, CONCORD 978.369.3909, OLDMANSE@TTOR ORG



New! Winter House & Attic Tours Weekends in December, January, February, March | 12NOON - 5PM Call for admission prices.

Festive Season at the Manse

1820s Holiday Tour Saturday & Sunday, December 12 & 13 1pm, 3pm, 5pm Members: \$10. Nonmembers: \$12.

Grand Holiday Sale at Old Manse Bookstore Saturday & Sunday, December 12 & 13, 19 & 20 | 12NOON - 5PM

Boxing Day Sale with British Goods and Foodstuffs Saturday & Sunday, December 26 & 27 12NOON - 5PM

Abolitionist and Anti-Slavery Month Selected dates in January

Learn how Concord and the Transcendentalists influenced the fight for freedom.

Wooing and Weddings Month Selected dates in February Explore the Romantics and Romance at

the Old Manse with Nathaniel and Sophia Hawthorne and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Women's History Month Selected dates in March

Come and meet Margaret Fuller, and other influential and unknown women, who helped make the Old Manse the home of America's 18th- and 19th-century political and literary revolutions.

Call 978.369.3909 for programmatic details and times. The Old Manse is also open Manday through Friday for pre-boaked tours.

Cabin Fever Festival Saturday, March 13 | 10Am - 2PM ROCKY WOODS, MEDFIELD S08,785,0339 Members: Adult \$2. Nonmembers: Adult \$6: Children 12 and under FREE. Bring snowshoes if there's snow or call to rent.

35th Annual Gardeners Gathering Saturday, March 20 | IIAM - 5PM CURRY STUDENT CENTER NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, BOSTON Visit www.bostonnatural.org for more info.

## NORTHEAST REGION



## Cape Ann Education Program

GLOUCESTER 978.281.8400

Pre-register for programs by calling 978.281.8400 or emailing capeanneducator@ttor.org.

Solstice Stroll Saturday, December 19 | 4 - 6PM RAVENSWOOD PARK, GLOUCESTER 978.281.8400 Members FREE, Nonmembers \$S.

Beginning Winter Birding Third Sundays, January 17, February 21, & March 21 | 8 - 10AM HALIBUT POINT RESERVATION, ROCKPORT 978.281.8400 FRFF

Creature Feature Saturdays, January 23, February 20, March 20 | 5:30 - 7PM CAPE ANN DISCOVERY CENTER RAVENSWOOD PARK, GLOUCESTER 978.281.8400 Pre-registration required. Members: Adult \$4. Nonmembers: Adult \$S. All children FREE.

January: Barred owls, followed by a night-time owl prowl in the Park.

February: Nocturnal Animals, followed by a night-time family hike.

March: Amphibians, followed by a night visit to an active vernal pool.

X-C Ski Ravenswood's Carriage Paths Saturday, February 6 | I - 3PM CAPE ANN DISCOVERY CENTER RAVENSWOOD PARK, GLOUCESTER 978.281.8400 Pre-registration required. Bring your own skis. Members FREE, Nonmembers \$5.



Ward Winter Fun Day Sunday, February 14 | 12noon - 3pm WARD RESERVATION, ANDOVER 978.682.3580 Go sledding, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing, then enjoy refreshments and a warming fire.

Ice Age Trail Saturday, February 13 | 1 - 3PM RAVENSWOOD PARK, GLOUCESTER 978.281.8400 Please preregister. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: \$5.

Snowflake Shapes & Science Wednesday, February 17 | 1 - 3PM CAPE ANN DISCOVERY CENTER RAVENSWOOD PARK, GLOUCESTER 978.281.8400 Recommended for families. Pre-registration required. Members: Adult \$4. Nonmembers: Adult \$5 All children FRFF

Hermit's Tales on the Trails Tuesday, February 16 and/or Thursday, February 18 | 1 - 3PM RAVENSWOOD PARK, GLOUCESTER 978.281.8400 Recommended for families. Pre-registration required. Members: Adult \$4. Nonmembers: Adult \$5. All children FREE.

Winter Wonders Pre-K Club (Ages 3 - 5)Thursdays, February 25 & March 4 IIAM - I2NOON COOLIDGE RESERVATION, MANCHESTER 978.281.8400 Pre-registration required. Members: Adult \$4. Nonmembers: Adult \$5. All children FREE.

March Meander Saturday, March 20 | I - 3PM RAVENSWOOD PARK, GLOUCESTER 978.281.8400 Pre-registration required. Members: Adult \$4. Nonmembers: Adult \$5.

## The Long Hill Horticultural Center ONG HILL BEVERLY 978 921 1944 ×4018

Please pre-register for Horticultural Center programs by calling 978.921.1944 ×4018, emailing bzschau@ttor.org, or registering online at www.thetrustees.org/longhill.

#### WINTER LECTURE SERIES

Gardening for the 21st Century: The Sustainable Landscape Tuesday, January 26 | 7 - 8:30pm Refreshments served at 6:30pm. Members: \$1S. Nonmembers: \$20.

Your Garden Will Look Different in 20 Years: Gardening in the Face of Climate Change Tuesday, February 9 | 7 - 9PM A lecture by Scott LaFleur. Refreshments served at 6:30pm, Members: \$10. Nonmembers: \$15.

Art and the Gardener: Taking a Fresh Look at Your Garden through Art Thursday, February 25 | 7 - 9PM A lecture by Gordon Hayward. Refreshments served at 6:30pm. Members: \$20. Nonmembers: \$2S.

## WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES

Winter Garden Photography Workshop: From Snapshot to Art Shot Saturday, January 30 | 10AM - 12NOON Limited to 20 adults, so register early! Members: \$20. Nonmembers: \$25

Spring Pruning: A Hands-On Workshop Saturday, March 6 | 10AM - 12NOON Members: \$28. Nonmembers: \$35.

## Andover/North Andover

Weir Hill Moonlight Hike Saturday, January 30 | 8 - 9:30PM WEIR HULL, NORTH ANDOVER 978.682 1580

Meeting spot: Main entrance Stevens Street. Limit 2S people. All children under 16: FREE. Members: FREE, Nonmembers: \$S.

## Appleton Farms

PSWICH/HAMILTON 978.356.5728 ×15

The Farm Nisse of Appleton Farms Friday, December 18 | 3:30 – 5PM FREE. Member event. Friends welcome. Please RSVP.

The Farm Field School in Winter Farm Field School winter workshops introduce all ages to winter happenings on the farm. Members: \$8. Nonmembers: \$10. Minimum recommended age for all programs is 6 (16 without adult). Please pre-register by calling 978.356.5728 ×15 or emailing hhannaway@ttor.org.

#### FOR ALL AGES

Owl Moon Thursday, January 28 | 5:30 - 7pm

Tracking & Animal Signs Wednesday, February 17
10AM – 12NOON

Cows in their Winter Home Thursdays, February 18, March 18 3 – 5PM Please pre-register.

Sugar Maple 101 Wednesday, March 16 | 3:30 - 5PM

#### FOR CHILDREN

Mini-Moo's Tuesdays, February 9, March 9 3:30 – 4:30PM Fee includes adult and child. Please pre-register.

## SOUTHEAST REGION



Slocum's River Long Walk Sunday, February 7 | I - 4PM SLOCUM'S RIVER RESERVE, DARTMOUTH S08.679.2115 XII FREE.

Animal Tracking
Saturday, February 13 | 9 - 11AM
MILLER BROOK CONSERVATION AREA,
COPICUT ROAD, FALL RIVER \$08.679.2115 X11
FREE.

Woodcock Wanderings
Saturday, March 27 | 7 - 8pm
SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS BIORESERVE,
FALL RIVER S08.679.2115 X11
FREE.

Salamander Soirée
TBD | 7:30 – 9pm
FREETOWN FALL RIVER STATE FOREST
HEADQUARTERS, SLAB BRIDGE ROAD,
ASSONET S08.679.2115 ×11
FREE.

## CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS

Saving Special Places Walking Series Throughout the Winter Check www.thetrustees.org or call 508.693.7662 for locations, dates, and times. Pre-registration required, space is limited. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: Adult \$10.

## Volunteer

Seabird Ecological Assessment Network (SEANET) Birding Monitors

One date each month; times vary (3-hour duration via oversand vehicle) CAPE POGE WILDLIFE REFUGE CHAPPAQUIDDICK S08.693 7662



## The Crane Estate IPSWICH 978.921.1944 x4005

Holiday Choral Concert Sunday, December 13 | 3PM Members: \$20, Nonmembers: \$25. Pre-registration recommended at www.thetrustees.org or 978.356.4351. Holiday Children's Parties
Wednesday, December 16 &
Thursday, December 17 { 3:30 - 5PM
Members: \$18 per child. Nonmembers: \$22
per child. Accompanying caregivers FREE.
Pre-registration required at www.thetrustees.org
or 978.356.4351.

Natural History and Great Marsh Ecology Lecture Series February/March

Visit www.thetrustees.org for confirmed speakers, dates, and times.

#### WinterQuest Series 2009

The Crane Estate is so much more than the beach! The winter is a whole new adventure for all ages. Please pre-register for these events by calling 978.921.1944 x4005.

In Search of the Snowy Owl
Sunday, February 7 | 1 - 4PM
Space is limited. Members: \$5

Castle Hills and Halls in Winter January 31, February 28, March 28 2 – 4PM

Members: \$4. Nonmembers: \$5.
WinterQuest for Kids

(Ages 8 – 12)
Tuesday, February 16 and/or Thursday,
February 18 | 3 – 5PM
Please pre-register. Space is limited. Bring your own sled. Members/SummerQuest campers: \$5.
Nonmembers: \$10.



Learn something new and enjoy your favorite Trustees reservation at the same time on these special REI Outdoor School programs. For more information, visit www.thetrustees.org/REI.

### Introduction to Snowshoeing

REI Members \$55; Nonmembers \$75

Saturday, January 23 | 9AM – 3PM Saturday, February 27 | 9AM – 3PM ROCKY WOODS – Participants meet at Framingham REI

Saturday, February 6 | 9AM – 3PM APPLETON FARMS – Participants meet at Reading REI

#### Family Snowshoeing

REI Members \$30, Child \$15; Nonmembers \$50, Child \$25

Saturday, February 20 | 10Am - 2PM WEIR RIVER FARM - Participants meet at Weir River Farm

## Introduction to Cross-Country Skiing

REI Members \$55; Nonmembers \$75

Saturday, January 16 | 9AM – 3PM Saturday, March 6 | 9AM – 3PM APPLETON FARMS – Participants meet at Reading REI

## Cross Country Ski Touring

REI Members \$65; Nonmembers \$85

Saturday, February 20 | 9AM – 3PM NOTCHVIEW – Participants meet at Framingham REI

Saturday, March 13 | 9:30AM – 2:30PM NOTCHVIEW — Participants meet at Notchview

## Essential Winter Camping Skills

REI Members \$40: Nonmembers \$60

Saturday, January 16 | 9AM – 3PM ROCKY WOODS — Participants meet at Boston REI

## Introduction to GPS Navigation

REI Members \$45; Nonmembers \$65

Saturday, March 27 | 9AM – 3PM
WHITNEY AND THAYER WOODS AND
TURKEY HILL – Participants meet at
Whitney and Thayer Woods

#### Digital Camera Field Trip

REI Members \$50; Nonmembers \$70

Saturday, January 16 | 9AM – 3PM
APPLETON FARMS – Participants
meet at Appleton Farms

#### Introduction to Map and Compass

REI Members \$45; Nonmembers \$65

Saturday, February 6 | 9AM – 3PM ROCKY WOODS – Participants meet at Rocky Woods

Saturday, March 13 | 9AM – 3PM ROCKY WOODS – Participants meet at Boston REI

## The Perfect Gift

For your loved ones - or yourself. Escape to mountains or the seas with a stay at one of our elegant inns. Get a live enjoy the cleasure, of art alleries and antique store, or simply relax and enjoy the lew.

All proceeds from your stay benefit our conservation work at Field Farm and the Crane Estate.



As featured in National Geographic Traveler's "Stay List."

#### THE INN AT CASTLE HILL



280 Argilla Road, Ipswich tel 978.412.2555 www.craneestate.org





THE GUEST HOUSE AT

554 Sloan Road, Williamstown tel 413.458.3135
www.guesthouseatfieldfarm.org





## Special PLACES

THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS 572 Essex Street
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www.thetrustees.org

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natural and cultural treasures we care for.